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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that St. Bernard Parish would receive \$148,794,164 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parish for disaster relief costs.

**"The people of St. Bernard Parish are determined to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,"** said Melancon. **"I am pleased the federal government is offering them a helping hand in their efforts and I will continue to work to make sure that every Louisianan who wants to rebuild, can rebuild."**

The following grants were announced today for St. Bernard Parish:

- \$137,025,000 for Demolition and Disposal of Destroyed Homes. Hurricane Katrina inundated St. Bernard parish with a storm surge approximately twenty five feet high. Almost the entire parish, including homes, businesses, infrastructure and public areas were flooded and under five to seventeen feet of water for approximately two weeks. Then Hurricane Rita submerged the parish for several more weeks. Debris is strewn throughout the parish in large quantities. FEMA estimates that 10,000 homes pose a threat to public safety and will be demolished. This demolition effort will generate approximately three million cubic yards of debris. FEMA is providing these Public Assistance funds to reimburse the parish for the costs of demolition, removal, transport and disposal of debris.

\$11,769,164 for Monitoring of Debris Removal. The storm surge from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita flooded almost the entire parish, uprooting trees and destroying buildings, generating enormous volumes of debris. These FEMA Public Assistance funds will reimburse the parish for the cost of monitoring debris removal from November 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005. Debris removal and monitoring continue, and additional funding will be provided.

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